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MINUTES

OF THE

1971 ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENING WITH

HEARON CIRCLE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

7408 Lone Oak Street

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

July 6, 7, 1971

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July 6, 7, 1971

Officers of the General Conference

PRESIDENT
Rev. Walter Carter

VICE-PRESIDENT
Rev. Clyde Cox

SECRETARY
Rev. Bobby G. Bazen

TREASURER
Rev. John R. Frame

Boards and Committees

GENERAL BOARD

Rev. Walter Carter . . . 108 Homeward Drive, Rockingham, N. C.
Rev. Clyde Cox . . . . . 300 Fleet Street, New Bern, N. C.
Rev. Bobby G. Bazen . . . . . Route 5, Dunn, N. C.
Rev. John R. Frame . . . . . Wharton, W. Va
Rev. Clarence F. Bowen . . . 1731 Hillcrest Drive, Wilson, N. C.
Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark . . . . . Route 2, Goldsboro, N. C.
Mr. Fred Bates . . . 5429 Princes Ann Road, Virginia Beach, Va.
Rev. Johnnie Bullman . . . . P. O. Box 4203, Spartanburg, S. C.
Rev. J. B. Starnes . . . . . Route 3, Box 123, Newport, N. C.
Rev. Ralph Lightsey . . . . . Box 731, Statesboro, Ga.
Rev. Burrell Barnette . . . 1615 Shady Lane Road, Columbus, Ohio

CHAPLAIN'S COMMISSION

Rev. Clarence F. Bowen (1972), chairman; Rev. L. B. Woodall Jr. (1973); Rev. Robert Nix (1974).

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark (1972), chairman; Rev. John Furr (1973); Rev. John Mayhew (1974).

Ministers Registered by States

North Carolina

Kemery Ard, Ayden, N. C.
Norman W. Ard, Pink Hill, N. C.
Harry G. Brown, Bahama, N. C.
Bobby G. Bazen, Dunn, N. C.
Lynwood C. Boyette, Pinetown, N. C.
Noah D. Brown Sr., Morehead City, N. C.
Larry Barbour, Creswell, N. C.
Walter Carter, Rockingham, N. C.
Charles W. Crisp, Rocky Mount, N. C.
Jerry B. English, New Bern, N. C.
James A. Evans, Kinston, N. C.
George L. Greene, Kannapolis, N. C.
David W. Hansley, LaGrange, N. C.
Joseph H. Ingram, Goldsboro, N. C.
O. B. Jones, Durham, N. C.
James F. Johnson, Clinton, N. C.
Harry A. Jones, Greenville, N. C.
R. H. Jackson, Sims, N. C.
James V. Joyner, Kenly, N. C.
Raymond Jones, Durham, N. C.
A. Graham Lane, New Bern, N. C.
H. L. Nix, Charlotte, N. C.
John A. Owens, Elizabeth City, N. C.
Walter Reynolds, Ayden, N. C.
Charles W. Sugg, Goldsboro, N. C.
J. B. Starnes, Newport, N. C.
Lloyd Vernon, Richlands, N. C.
Paul T. Warner Jr., Pineville, N. C.
Nerry Wall, Pink Hill, N. C.

South Carolina

Johnnie Bullman, Spartanburg, S. C.
Robert H. Barnette, Spartanburg, S. C.
Elmer Carter, Arcadia, S. C.
L. R. Combs, Fort Mill, S. C.
A. R. Greene, Spartanburg, S. C.
R. H. McAbee, Inman, S. C.
Arthur Robert Nix, Spartanburg, S. C.
Coleman Pate
Paul Roland
Bobby Stewart, Spartanburg, S. C.
Carl Shook, Valley Falls, S. C.

Virginia

Fred A. Rivenbark, Virginia Beach, Va.

395616

John R. Frame, Wharton, W. Va.
John Mayhew, Ragland, W. Va.
Walter Patterson, Mason, W. Va.

Churches Registered and Represented By States

North Carolina

Albemarle Conference
Albemarle Union Meeting
Antioch, New Bern, N. C.
Angola, Maple Hill, N. C.
British Chapel, Kinston, N. C.
Bethlehem, Chinquapin, N. C.
Black Jack, Greenville, N. C.
Bethel, Four Oaks, N. C.
Black Jack Grove, Goldsboro, N. C.
Community Chapel, Cordova, N. C.
Community Chapel, Hamlet, N. C.
Cabin, Beulaville, N. C.
Christian Chapel, Pink Hill, N. C.
Dilda's Grove, Fountain, N. C.
Daly's Chapel, Seven Springs, N. C.
Dawson's Grove, Scotland Neck, N. C.
Edwards Chapel, Beaufort, N. C.
Elm Grove, Ayden, N. C.
East Rockingham, Rockingham, N. C.
Faith, Morehead City, N. C.
First Union Meeting of Western Conference
First Church, Smithfield, N. C.
First Church, Pineville, N. C.
First Church, Rocky Mount, N. C.
First Church, LaGrange, N. C.
First Church, Tarboro, N. C.
First Church, Warsaw, N. C.
First Church, Goldsboro, N. C.
First Church, Kinston, N. C.
Friendship, Middlesex, N. C.
Friendship, Farmville, N. C.
Gethsemane, New Bern, N. C.
Gray Branch, Deep Run, N. C.
Hugo, Grifton, N. C.
Holly Springs, Newport, N. C.
Johnston Union, Clayton, N. C.
Juniper Chapel, Vanceboro, N. C.
Kenly, Kenly, N. C.
Lee's Chapel, Dunn, N. C.
Little Rock, Lucama, N. C.
Little Creek, Ayden, N. C.
Lanwood Chapel, Smithfield, N. C.

Long Ridge, Mount Olive, N. C.
Mount Tabor, Creswell, N. C.
Mount Olive, Mount Olive, N. C.
Marsh Swamp, Sims, N. C.
Memorial Chapel, Middlesex, N. C.
Mount Pleasant, Newport, N. C.
Morganton, Morganton, N. C.
Mount Zion, Roper, N. C.
Northeast, Mount Olive, N. C.
Northern, Bahama, N. C.
Oak Grove, Bladenboro, N. C.
Oak Grove, Newton Grove, N. C.
Oak Grove, Vanceboro, N. C.
Piney Grove, Greenville, N. C.
Pearsall Chapel, Kenansville, N. C.
Palmer Memorial, Raleigh, N. C.
Rock of Zion, Grantsboro, N. C.
Rose Bud, Wilson, N. C.
Rooty Branch, Mount Olive, N. C.
Riverside, Princeton, N. C.
Shady Grove, Dunn, N. C.
Snow Hill, Mount Olive, N. C.
Saratoga, Saratoga, N. C.
Sandy Plain, Pink Hill, N. C.
Stancil's Chapel, Kenly, N. C.
Stony Hill, Middlesex, N. C.
Selma, Selma, N. C.
Stoney Creek, Goldsboro, N. C.
Spring Hill, Goldsboro, N. C.
St. Paul, Elizabeth City, N. C.
St. Mary's Grove, Benson, N. C.
Sneads Ferry, Sneads Ferry, N. C.
Sound Side, Columbia, N. C.
Trinity, Pantego, N. C.
Tee's Chapel, Smithfield, N. C.
Unity, Durham, N. C.
Union Grove, Fremont, N. C.
Union Chapel, Plymouth, N. C.
Winterville, Winterville, N. C.
Walnut Creek, LaGrange, N. C.
Wildwood, Newport, N. C.
Wooten's Chapel, Raleigh, N. C.
Whaley's Chapel, Richlands, N. C.
White Oak, Bladenboro, N. C.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Community Chapel, McColl, S. C.
Grace, Lancaster, S. C.

Hearon Circle, Spartanburg, S. C.
Mount Zion, Inman, S. C.
Riverside, Spartanburg, S. C.
State Line, Campabello, S. C.
Trinity, Una, S. C.
West View, Spartanburg, S. C.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach, Va.

OHIO

Lockbourne, Lockbourne, Ohio
York Street, Circleville, Ohio
Ash Street, Middleport, Ohio
Rutland, Rutland, Ohio
Addison, Addison, Ohio

WEST VIRGINIA

Raleigh Conference—Representing 9 Churches

Harmony Conference—Representing 10 Churches in West Virginia and Ohio

West Virginia Yearly Meeting—Representing 56 Churches in West Virginia and Ohio

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Minutes of the 1971 Annual Session of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists

The 1971 annual session of the General Conference convened with the Hearon Circle Free Will Baptist Church, 7408 Lone Oak Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina, on July 6, 7, 1971. Registration for the Conference began at 1 p. m. on July 6, under the direction of the Credentials Committee. The theme for the Conference was, "Jesus—Today's Answer." The Scripture was, ". . . We have found . . . the Christ. And he (Andrew) brought him (Simon) to Jesus. . . ." (John 1:41, 42).

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 6, 1971, 7:30 P. M.

The Tuesday evening session began with a song service, and the host church choir rendered several inspiring special arrangements in song.

The opening devotion was given by the Rev. Graham Lane, chairman of the board, of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, North Carolina. He used 1 Peter 1:23-25 as a basis for his remarks on the opportunities of service in a world with many problems.

The Rev. Johnnie Bullman, pastor of the host church, brought greetings from the church and extended a warm and cordial welcome to the General Conference.

The Conference was officially opened for the transaction of business by the secretary, the Rev. Bobby G. Bazen, who presented the Rev. Walter Carter, president, to preside over the session.

The following committees were appointed to serve during the session:

Nominating Committee—The Revs. Fred A. Rivenbark, Johnnie Bullman, John Owens, and Walter Patterson.

Resolutions Committee—The Revs. Norman Ard, John Frame, R. H. McAbee, and Mr. Carroll Sheets.

The Rev. R. H. Jackson was appointed to serve as the Conference parliamentarian for the session.

The secretary read the proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws, and by motion these were placed on the table until the Wednesday afternoon session.

The Conference offering was received, and special music was rendered by the host church.

The president presented the Rev. J. B. Starnes of Newport, North Carolina, to bring the evening message. Mr. Starnes used John 11:22 in presenting Jesus as today's answer for a living faith against impossible situations.

The Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark presented a partial report of the Credentials Committee which was received by vote.

The Conference recessed for the evening following a hymn and the benediction.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1971, 9:30 A. M.

The Wednesday morning session was opened with the congregation singing a number of hymns. The Rev. J. B. Starnes led in prayer and the Rev. John Mayhew brought the morning devotions. Special music was presented by the Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Starnes and the Norman Ard family.

The Rev. Walter Carter presented the moderator's message to the Conference based on the theme, "Jesus—Today's Answer." He challenged the Conference by stating that the "greatest thing in the world is to bring someone to Christ."

Following congregational singing, the president introduced the Rev. Johnnie Bullman, pastor of Hearon Circle Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, as the speaker of the hour. Mr. Bullman, using the Conference theme, declared that all laity and ministers need to be involved in evangelism, and that when God's Word is presented in the power of the Holy Spirit results will be seen.

After a hymn and a prayer by the Rev. Lloyd Vernon, the Conference recessed for a ten-minute break.

Upon returning the congregation sang several hymns, enjoyed special music by the host church, and the Rev. John Owens led in prayer.

The president presented the Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark, pastor of Virginia Beach Free Will Baptist Church, who spoke on "The Problems of Today—Noninvolvement, Immorality, Corruption, Dishonesty, and Materialism." He stated that we need only to touch Jesus for the answer.

The Rev. R. H. Jackson prayed the benediction for the morning session.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1971, 1:30 P. M.

The afternoon session of the Conference was opened with Scripture reading and devotions by the Rev. R. H. McAbee of Inman, South Carolina.

A motion was made and carried to remove from the table the proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws. A motion was made and carried to adopt the revision as amended (see constitution and bylaws in the back of the minutes).

The secretary presented the report of the Executive Committee which was adopted by motion, except the paragraph relative to Key 73 in the July 6, 1971 meeting. This proposal was removed from the report, and in separate action it was defeated (see report).

The report of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism was given by the Rev. J. B. Starnes. It was moved and carried to adopt the report (see report).

The report of the Board of Foreign Missions was given by the Rev. R. H. Jackson and by motion adopted (see report).

The report of the treasurer was given by the Rev. John R. Frame and by motion adopted (see report).

The final report of the Credentials Committee was given by the Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark and by motion adopted (see report).

A report on the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, North Carolina, was given by the Rev. Graham Lane, and the printed report was approved for printing in the minutes (see report).

Doug Skinner, a student from Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina, gave an oral report on the college, and it was received as information.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was presented by the Rev. Norman Ard and by motion adopted (see report).

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by the Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark and by motion adopted. The slate of officers were elected by acclamation (see report).

It was moved and carried to leave all unfinished business and the 1972 meeting place (three invitations were received: West Virginia, LaGrange, North Carolina, and Kinston, North Carolina) in the hands of the General Board.

It was moved and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Carter, *President*
Bobby G. Bazen, *Secretary*

REPORTS

Executive Committee Meeting

(September 16, 1970)

Th Executive Committee of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met at St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, North Carolina, after the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists.

The meeting was called to order by the president, the Rev. Walter Carter.

By motion, the invitation for the 1971 annual session extended by the Hearon Circle Free Will Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, was accepted.

By motion, the expense of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation for printing the *Statement of Faith and Discipline* for the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists was underwritten in the amount of $150.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee was set for the North Carolina Midyear Ministers' Conference. (This was later changed for February 18, 1971.)

It was moved and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Carter, *President*
Bobby G. Bazen, *Secretary*

Executive Committee Meeting

(February 18, 1971)

The Executive Committee of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met at the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina, on February 18, 1971, at 10 a. m. Members of the committee present were: the Revs. Walter Carter, R. H. Jackson, Clyde Cox, Bobby G. Bazen, J. B. Starnes, Walter Reynolds, Fred A. Rivenbark, and Dr. W. Burkette Raper.

The meeting was called to order by the president, the Rev. Walter Carter, and the Rev. R. H. Jackson led in prayer.

The minutes of the September 16, 1971, Executive Committee meeting were read for information.

By motion, the committee was led in special prayer by the Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark for the Rev. Wilbert Everton.

The following resolution from the 1970 annual session was considered:

"Whereas, the present date for the annual meeting prevents many people who are engaged in farming from attending the General Conference of Free Will Baptists; therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the Conference be requested to make a comprehensive study of denominational activities during the summer and submit to the 1971 session of the Conference its recommendation regarding the most suitable date for the annual meeting of the Conference."

After discussion of the available meeting times, a motion was passed to propose the following constitutional change:

Article IV: Meetings. This Conference shall meet annually beginning on Tuesday after the fourth Sunday in June of each year at a place determined by the Conference while in session or by its Executive Committee.

The committee, serving as the Program Committee, adopted as a theme for the 1971 session, "Jesus—Today's Answer"; and the Scripture text, ". . . We have found . . . the Christ. And he (Andrew) brought him (Simon) to Jesus. . . ." (John 1:41, 42).

By motion, the 1971 annual report is to include an appropriate blank for each local church to check, indicating their desire to be included in the I.R.S. tax exempt roster.

By motion a committee of three was appointed to study the constitution and bylaws and the future goals of the General Conference, and to report back to the Executive Committee before the 1971 annual session. They are the Revs. Clyde Cox, Bobby G. Bazen, and Dr. W. Burkette Raper.

It was moved and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Carter, *President*
Bobby G. Bazen, *Secretary*

Executive Committee Meeting

(March 30, 1971)

The Executive Committee of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptist met at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina, on March 30, 1971, at 10 a. m. Members of the committee present were the Revs. Clyde Cox, Fred A. Rivenbark, J. B. Starnes, R. H. Jackson, Walter Reynolds, Bobby G. Bazen, and Dr. Burkette Raper.

The meeting was called to order by the vice-president, the Rev. Clyde Cox.

The minutes of the February 18, 1971, Executive Committee were read for information.

The committee appointed to study the constitution and bylaws made its report, and the report was adopted with the necessary changes being made. The proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws is to be presented to the 1971 annual session.

It was moved and carried to endorse the trip of the secretary to St. Louis, Missouri, to investigate and bring back information relative to Key 73, a program of evangelism designed to present the gospel to each person in North America during 1973.

It was moved and carried to have the picture of members of the committee present at this meeting made and used for publicity and the bill sent to the treasurer.

It was moved and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Cox, *Vice-President*
Bobby G. Bazen, *Secretary*

Executive Committee Meeting

(July 6, 1971)

The Executive Committee of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met at Hearon Circle Free Will Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, on July 6, 1971. Members of the committee present were: the Revs. Walter Carter, Bobby G. Bazen, John Frame, J. B. Starnes, David W. Hansley, R. H. Jackson, and Fred A. Rivenbark. Visitors present were: the Revs. Johnnie Bullman, O. B. Jones, and licensed ministers, Bruce Jones and Doug Skinner.

The meeting was called to order by the president, the Rev. Walter Car ter, and Mr. Bruce Jones led in prayer.

The proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws was reviewed and corrected for presentation to the annual session.

The printed program for the 1971 session was adopted as the official order of service, giving the president the authority to make any necessary changes.

It was moved and carried that the General Conference participate in Key 73, a cooperative venture involving 80 or more denominations and Christian groups, sharing with every person in North America more fully and more forcefully the claims and message of the gospel of Jesus Christ and that efforts be made to reach our fair share of Key 73 expense in the amount of $2,875.

It was moved and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Carter, *President*
Bobby G. Bazen, *Secretary*

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Financial Report

Balance July 8, 1970	$ 332.78
Receipts 1970-1971	222.99
Total to Account For	$ 555.77
Disbursements	
Trailer for West View Mission (Spartanburg, S. C.)	$ 500.00
Balance July 7, 1971	$ 55.77

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Financial Report

Balance July 1, 1970		$ 53.72
Received This Year		222.99
Total to Account For		$ 276.71
Disbursements (N. C. Foreign Missions)		$ 200.00
Balance July 1, 1971		$ 76.71

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Brought Forward		$ 511.35
Receipts for the Year		
Registration Fees and Offerings (1970)		643.00
Contributions During Year		138.11
Total to Account For		$1,292.46
Disbursements for the Year		
Rev. Walter Carter	$ 86.50	
Free Will Baptist Press	315.60	
Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark	47.18	
Dr. W. Burkette Raper	7.70	
Rev. Clyde Cox	14.70	
Rev. J. B. Starnes	10.22	
Rev. R. H. Jackson	13.30	
Rev. Bobby G. Bazen	97.70	
Rev. Walter Reynolds	7.00	
Kraft's Studio of Photography	5.65	
Total Disbursements		605.55
Balance in Treasury July 6, 1971		$ 686.91

FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Ministers	44
Delegates	29
States Represented	5
Visitors	31
Churches	97
Union Meetings and Quarterly Conferences	5
Yearly Meeting	1

REPORT OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

I. Appreciation

Greetings from the children, staff, and board of trustees of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, North Carolina. We appreciate

your marvelous support during the past year—prayers as well as finances. Our Home could not have made the progress it has without it.

II. Finances

The following figures represent religious contributions *only* from the various states from July 1, 1970—May 31, 1971 (June contributions are not yet confirmed). It should be noted that certain churches in Virginia and South Carolina are members of conferences or associations in North Carolina, so their contributions are included in that figure. Some out-of-state income came in during June.

Illinois	$ 100.00
North Carolina	113,565.94
West Virginia	60.99
Total Religious Contributions	$113,726.93

III. Mandatory License Bill

Recently there was a proposed bill before the North Carolina Legislature which would have required a mandatory license for children's homes to operate in North Carolina. The bill was "killed," but probably will reappear in the future. Presently our Home is exempt from license because it operates under a charter granted by the state and is sponsored by a religious denomination.

IV. Assistant Superintendent Resigns

The Rev. Eugene M. Sumner has resigned as assistant superintendent, effective on August 20, 1971, to continue his formal education in the field of child care. We are accepting applications for the position.

V. Project Upward Bound

Six of our children qualified for a special "Upward Bound" program offered by North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount which is designed to help prepare them for College. These young people will attend classes on the college campus for seven weeks this summer, seven weeks next summer, and each Saturday for two regular school years at no cost to the Home. Upon completion of the program the students should have the basics necessary for good college work.

VI. Tutorial Program

One of the greatest helps to our children in recent years has been the new Tutorial Program which began last fall. A full-time schoolteacher, called our "Liaison-Coordinator," serves as a liaison between the Children's Home, children, and school system in helping to solve the children's education and/or disciplinary problems. She also coordinates special study halls on campus to assist the children in overcoming academic problems. Success of the program is indicated by better grades, increased motivation, and a realization by the children that *we really care!*

VII. Farm

A. We are tending our entire farm this year with the exception of the tobacco which has been leased and moved off our farm. The crops look real good so far.

B. We have around 115 hogs presently with several sows that will farrow soon.

C. We now have 54 cows and calves on our farm.

D. Other livestock includes ponies, chickens, and turkeys.

VIII. Other Recent Accomplishments

A. *Kitchens:* Each cottage now has its own kitchen where the children eat their meals in a homelike atmosphere. These have made a tremendous contribution to the overall campus life and morale of the children. However, the central dining hall is open for lunch and dinner, *just during the summer months,* while the housemothers are freezing and canning produce from the farm.

B. *New Roofs:* New roofs have been installed on the Deans and Smith cottages, office building, and superintendent's home.

C. *Office Equipment:* The office equipment has been upgraded by replacing several of the worn out and outdated machines. This cost has been covered by earmarked contributions and pledges.

D. *Painting:* Our old buildings are in the process of being painted on the outside. It is hoped that we will be able to paint the inside this fall.

E. *New Van:* The North Carolina State Woman's Auxiliary Convention has adopted as a special project the purchasing of a new van for the Home. Our ladies are encouraged to help with this project.

F. *New Residence:* Construction will begin soon on a new residence for the assistant superintendent's family. As director of group care this man needs to live on campus.

IX. Number of Children

We presently have 67 children in our care, both on campus and in higher education. However, this number will drop soon with the official discharge of this year's graduates, etc.

X. Invitation to Visit Campus

We invite our friends everywhere to visit with us on campus when it is convenient for you. Our doors are always open with a heartfelt welcome.

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Whereas, the Hearon Circle Free Will Baptist Church has entertained the 1971 session of the General Conference in a genuine spirit of Christian fellowship and has given careful consideration to our needs and comfort; therefore, be it resolved that the Conference give a rising vote of apprecia-

tion to the Hearon Circle Church and its pastor, the Rev. Johnnie Bullman, for their gracious hospitality during this session of the General Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Norman Ard
Rev. R. H. McAbee
Rev. John R. Frame
Mr. Carroll Sheets

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President—Rev. Walter Carter
Vice-President—Rev. Clyde Cox
Secretary—Rev. Bobby G. Bazen
Treasurer—Rev. John R. Frame
Chaplain's Commission—Rev. Robert Nix
Credentials Committee—Rev. John Mayhew
General Board Members—Rev. Johnnie Bullman, Mr. Fred Bates, Rev. J. B. Starnes, Rev. Ralph Lightsey, and Rev. Burrell Barnette.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark
Rev. John Owens
Rev. Walter Patterson
Rev. Johnnie Bullman

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

General Conference Of Original Free Will Baptists

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Section 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to unite Original Free Will Baptists in a Christian fellowship for the advancement of the kingdom of God through worship, missions and evangelism, education, literature, benevolences, and other means as may be mutually agreed upon. This fellowship recognizes the individual freedom and mutual dependence of all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Composition

This Conference shall be composed of the general officers, members of standing boards, committees or commissions, ordained ministers, church conferences, associations, union meetings, quarterly meetings, conventions, yearly meetings, or other denominational organizations that subscribes to the purpose of this Conference and to its adopted articles of faith and practice.

Section 2: Voting and Office Privileges

The privilege of voting and holding office shall be extended to duly elected delegates and qualified ministers.

A. Each church holding membership in this Conference may send one voting delegate for each one hundred members or fraction thereof.

B. Each denominational organization holding membership may send one delegate for each two hundred members or fraction thereof.

C. Any ordained Original Free Will Baptist minister who holds membership in a church, conference, or association, belonging to this Conference, shall be eligible to vote and to hold office.

D. Before voting or holding office, all delegates and ministers must be registered according to procedures adopted by this Conference.

ARTICLE III

Officers

The officers of this Conference shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

This Conference shall meet annually beginning on Tuesday after the

fourth Sunday in June of each year at a place determined by the Conference while in session or by its General Board.

ARTICLE V

Section 1: Fees

Each church and organization shall contribute $5 annually for each delegate it sends to the Conference. Each minister shall pay a fee of $2 annually. These fees shall be payable at registration, and no delegate or minister may vote or hold office until his fee is paid.

Section 2: Distribution of Funds

The expenditure of all funds coming into the Conference shall be approved by the Conference while in annual session or by its General Board.

ARTICLE VI

Denominational Institutions

Section 1: Free Will Baptist Press Foundation

The Conference shall promote the use of literature published by and the patronage of church supplies sold by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Ayden, North Carolina.

Section 2: Mount Olive College

Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina, is officially endorsed by this Conference for educational services to Original Free Will Baptists and for financial support by the membership of this Conference.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Procedure

Business sessions of this Conference shall be conducted in keeping with procedures recognized by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order.* A parliamentarian, who must be approved by the Conference, may be appointed by the president.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Officers, Boards, Committees, and Commissions—Their Election and Duties.

Section 1: President

A. *Election.* The president shall be elected for a term of two years.

B. *Duties.* The president shall:

1. Preside over meetings of the Conference and the General Board;
2. Appoint such temporary committees as may be necessary for the work of the Conference;
3. Call meetings of the General Board;

4. Serve as an ex officio member of all standing boards, committees, and commissions; and
5. Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

Section 2: Vice-President

A. *Election.* The vice-president shall be elected for a term of two years.

B. *Duties.* It shall be the duty of the vice-president to perform the duties of the president in the absence of that officer. In event that the office of president should become vacant due to the death, inability, resignation, or ineligibility of the incumbent, the vice-president shall fill the unexpired term.

Section 3: Secretary

A. *Election.* The secretary shall be elected for a period of two years.

B. *Duties.* The secretary shall:

1. Record and preserve an accurate record of all meetings of the Conference and its General Board;
2. Preserve or cause to be preserved all valuable documents of the Conference;
3. Deliver to his successor in office all records, documents, and other articles which may belong to the Conference; and
4. Publish and disseminate such information as may be authorized by the Conference or the General Board.

Section 4: Treasurer

A. *Election.* The treasurer shall be elected for a period of two years.

B. *Duties.* The treasurer shall:

1. Receive and have custody of all funds which belong to the Conference;
2. Pay all bills authorized by the Conference or the General Board; and
3. Give a written report of all receipts and disbursements and other transactions to the annual meeting of the Conference and to the General Board upon request.

Section 5: General Board

A. *Membership.* The General Board shall be composed of the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer of the Conference, the chairman of the Credentials Committee, the chairman of the Chaplains Commission, and five members elected at large.

B. *Duties.* It shall be the duty of the General Board to:

1. Provide a channel through which members of the Conference may coordinate their missionary programs;
2. Provide a means for developing and coordinating financial support for missionary projects approved by the Conference;

3. Help establish and organize Original Free Will Baptist churches;
4. Cooperate with and assist members of this Conference in local evangelistic efforts;
5. Investigate and recommend areas of cooperation with other church groups which are fundamental;
6. Call special sessions of the Conference when there are needs of sufficient urgency;
7. Serve as the program committee for the Conference;
8. Assure that adequate provisions are made for annual and special meetings of the Conference;
10. Employ such help as necessary and that funds will permit to administer and promote the work of this Conference;
11. Submit an annual budget for the program and activities of the Conference; and
12. Act for the Conference when the Conference is not in session so long as its actions conform to the general policies of the Conference and report all work to the annual Conference.

Section 6: Chaplain's Commission

A. *Membership.* The Chaplain's Commission shall be composed of three members elected for a period of three years with the term of one member expiring annually.

B. *Duties.* It shall be the duty of the Chaplain's Commission to:

1. Formulate policies and procedures relative to the endorsement and supervision of Original Free Will Baptist ministers for the Chaplaincy in the United States Armed Services and other organizations and institutions using such services; and
2. Represent this Conference in contacts with the *Chief of Chaplains* and other officials or organizations whose activities relate to the ministry of Chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Section 7: Credentials Committee

A. *Membership.* The Credentials Committee shall be composed of three members elected for a period of three years with the term of one member expiring annually.

B. *Duties.* It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to:

1. Arrange for and conduct the official registration at each session of the Conference;
2. Receive and consider applications for membership and make recommendations to the Conference pertaining thereto; and
3. File a statistical report with the Conference such as may be compiled from the reports received.

ARTICLE II

Amendments

This constitution and these bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present in a regular session of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. All amendments shall be submitted in writing and shall lie on the table not less than six hours prior to adoption and shall, during that time, be read not less than twice in open session.

MINUTES

OF THE

1971 Annual Session

OF THE

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convening with

HEARON CIRCLE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

7408 Lone Oak Street

Spartanburg, South Carolina

July 6, 1971

Officers of the Woman's Auxiliary, 1971

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Norman Ard . . . . . Route 1, Pink Hill, N. C. 28572

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. Walter Carter . . . . . Rockingham, N. C. (Deceased)

SECRETARY

Mrs. L. A. Holliday . . . . . Manning, S. C. 29102

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mrs. James A. Evans . . . . 600 Carey Road, Kinston, N. C. 28501

TREASURER

Mrs. Carl Dudley . . . 202 Aiken Street, Fuquay Varina, N. C. 27526

YOUTH CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Harry Brown . . . . Route 1, Box 103, Bahama, N. C. 27503

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Mrs. J. B. Starnes . . . . Route 3, Box 123, Newport, N. C. 28570

Officers for 1972

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Norman Ard . . . . . Route 1, Pink Hill, N. C. 28572

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. Johnnie Bullman . 8126 Daniel Court, Spartanburg, S. C. 29303

SECRETARY

Miss Linda Lambert . . . . . Box 36, Sylvester, W. Va. 25193

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mrs. R. H. Jackson . . . . . Route 1, Sims, N. C. 27880

TREASURER

Mrs. Carl Dudley . . . 202 Aiken Street, Fuquay Varina, N. C. 27526

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Mrs. J. B. Starnes . . . . Route 3, Box 123, Newport, N. C. 28570

YOUTH CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Harry Brown . . . . Route 1, Box 103, Bahama, N. C. 27503

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the General Conference

(July 6, 1971)

THEME: "*Youthful Helps*" (Nehemiah 6:3)

The Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the General Conference met in its 1971 annual session at the Hearon Circle Free Will Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, July 6, 1971.

The meeting opened with the singing of "Send the Light." Mrs. R. Y. Stephenson was asked to serve as secretary until the secretary arrived.

Mrs. J. V. Joyner of Kenly, North Carolina, conducted a very inspiring and challenging devotion using for her text Mark 13:32-37. Mrs. Joyner stated that we should watch our words, our tongue, and our actions; think of Christ daily, hourly, and at all times. We should preserve a blameless and holy character and reputation; to be aware of children copying us and others watching daily, whether good or bad. The devotional period was closed with a poem and prayer.

Mrs. Johnnie Bullman, wife of the host pastor, welcomed the convention to Hearon Circle Church. The response was given by Mrs. R. H. Jackson.

The president, Mrs. Norman Ard of Pink Hill, North Carolina, based her remarks on the women's work in the church and women working together. She used for a Scripture text Nehemiah 4:19, 20.

In the absence of the youth chairman, Mrs. Harry Brown of Bahama, North Carolina, the Rev. Harry Brown explained the Bible Bowl Quiz. He stated that he and Mrs. Brown were prepared to travel to any church after September in the interest of this program. He stated that the Bible Quiz books from the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina, were used as a basis for the program. Due to the weight of the equipment, Mrs. Brown would need Mr. Brown to travel with her to the various churches that might request their services. Mr. Brown suggested that a youth meeting be held on Monday night prior to the Woman's Auxiliary Convention in 1972. This program is intended for the agse 13-18 of the church. Plans call for one team of three from each local church. From the local church, runoffs would be held in each district, and from the district, the winners would go on to the state and General Conference level.

There was a short intermission at this time and the local church served refreshments.

Mrs. J. B. Starnes, program chairman, showed some very attractive and interesting posters identifying some money-raising projects the youth might undertake; namely, selling various items such as Danny Dozit, candies, donuts, greeting cards; having rummage sales and car washes; selling note stationary with picture of church, and coupons for family portraits.

Mrs. Nerry Wall and daughters brought special music and outlined

some helps in the field of recreation. Mrs. Wall's suggestions were: trips to city parks and playgrounds, picnics for the younger children, and trick or treat at Halloween, asking the parents to cooperate by inviting the children to visit them. The older groups could have cook-outs and Christmas parties for all ages with gifts for the younger children. Refreshments for the meetings could rotate among the members. The YFA could sponsor an Easter egg hunt for the younger group. Mrs. Wall also suggested that the youth be encouraged to attend the various conventions. Trips to historic sites and museums would be very helpful. She stated that she had found Bible games, skating parties, and the participation in youth choirs very interesting to young people.

Mrs. R. H. Jackson reported that the young people of Marsh Swamp Church had sponsored a Senior Citizen's Day.

Mrs. Johnnie Bullman stated that Hearon Circle Church had sponsored a Miss Hearon Circle pageant for its young people.

The president appointed the following committees:

Resolutions: Mrs. Jack Everett and Mrs. Kemery Ard, North Carolina; and Mrs. Gladys Brammer, Ohio.

Nominating: Mrs. R. H. Jackson, North Carolina; Mrs. F. A. Rivenbark, Virginia; and Mrs. Edith Stanley, South Carolina.

Finances: Mrs. Carl Dudley and Mrs. R. Y. Stephenson, North Carolina; and Mrs. Doris Bullman, South Carolina.

The convention adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mrs. F. A. Rivenbark of Virginia conducted a memorial service in memory of Mrs. Walter Carter and others who had died during the past year.

Mrs. Norman Ard, president, was in charge of the helps in planning programs for the youth. She suggested that the preschool age children be grouped together and those of school age form another group. She also recommended Bible quizzes, games, flannelgraph, and storybooks with finger plays. A minimum of officers was suggested; such as, president, vice-president, secretary, and benevolent chairman, with a short business session. Object lessons and program books adapted to the various age groups were also suggested. Of course the YFA groups have their own program books. Mrs. Ard urged that the young people be allowed to conduct their meetings and activities themselves with a minimum of adult help.

The reports of the committees were given. (See reports.)

A motion was made and carried that a letter of appreciation be sent to the people who reproduced the copies of the proposed constitution and bylaws to be studied at this session.

A motion was made and carried to accept the constitution and bylaws as presented for consideration. It was noted that it was subject to further study and minor corrections.

The Ard family brought as special music, "In the Image of God."

The meeting adjourned with the benediction by the Rev. Walter Carter of Rockingham, North Carolina.

Mrs. Norman Ard, *President*
Mrs. James A. Evans, *Assisting Secretary*

(Note: In an informal meeting of the Executive Committee after the convention adjourned, it was agreed that the Woman's Auxiliary Convention should pay some on the printing of the minutes.)

REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. Whereas, the youth of our organization have not been actively involved in the General Conference because of lack of time; let it be resolved that we start on Monday night before our regular Woman's Auxiliary Convention in order to have more time to work with our young people.

2. Whereas, we have begun a program known as the Bible Bowl Quiz for our young people; be it resolved that we begin these studies with the Book of Matthew and follow through the New Testament.*

3. Whereas, the Hearon Circle Church has entertained the 1971 session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the General Conference in a genuine spirit of Christian fellowship and has given careful consideration of our needs and comfort; therefore, be it resolved, that this convention give a rising vote of appreciation to the church and its pastor, the Rev. Johnnie Bullman, for their gracious hospitality during this session of the convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Jack Everett, *Chairman*
Mrs. Gladys Brammer
Mrs. Kemery Ard

*Since the Book of Matthew has not been prepared for use in the Bible Bowl Quiz, the Book of Mark will be used.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Brought Forward		$272.36
Receipts		
From 31 Auxiliaries	$145.00	
From One District Convention	5.00	
Worship Offering	23.66	
Total Receipts		173.66
Total to Account For		$446.02

Disbursements

Convention's Gift to the President	$ 10.00	
Convention's Gift to the Secretary	10.00	
Convention's Gift to the Treasurer	10.00	
Secretary's Expenses	8.60	
Free Will Baptist Press	5.25	
Total Disbursements		43.85
Balance in Treasury		$402.17

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Carl Dudley, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Johnnie Bullman
Mrs. R. Y. Stephenson

DIGEST COMMITTEE

Officers Present	4
Ministers Present	17
Auxiliaries Reporting	34
Delegates Present	13
Visitors	34
States Represented	5

List of auxiliaries reporting with amount of contributions:

Celia Hart Garris Auxiliary, Ayden	$ 5.00	Johnston Union	5.00
Greenville	5.00	Cape Fear District Auxiliary Convention	5.00
Elm Grove	5.00	Holly Springs, Newport	5.00
Pleasant Grove	5.00	Saint Paul, Elizabeth City	5.00
Angola	5.00	Virginia Beach	5.00
Daly's Chapel	5.00	Marsh Swamp	5.00
Black Jack	5.00	Addison, Ohio	5.00
West Clinton		First Church, Kinston	5.00
Edwards Chapel	2.00	First Church, Tarboro	5.00
Hickory Chapel (No Report)	5.00	Hugo, Grifton	5.00
Christian Chapel	5.00	First Church, Rocky Mount	5.00
Mount Zion, Bayboro	5.00	Sherron Acres	5.00
St. Mary's, New Bern	5.00	East Rockingham	5.00
First Church, Goldsboro	5.00	Trinity, South Carolina	5.00
Tee's Chapel	5.00	Hearon Circle, South Carolina	5.00
Sandy Plain	5.00	Mount Olive, Kannapolis	
Friendship, Nash County	2.00		
Palmer Memorial	5.00	Total Contributions	$154.00

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